SOUTHERN CROSS

Vol. 78, No.39 | *Serving the Catholics of San Diego, Imperial counties* | Nov. 30, 1989

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The Wall

What brought the Berlin Wall down? The power of nonviolent people, writer suggests.

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Advent, time to work for just society

By Joyce Carr
Southern Cross

ALCALA PARK—The seasons of Advent, Dec.3-24, is a time of joyful waiting to celebrate the anniversary of Jesus' birth and to share in the glory of his second coming at the end of time, while working for "a just and compassionate society," according to the director of the San Diego diocesan Center for Liturgy and Prayer.

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany commemorate the manifestation of Christ divinity, said Franciscan Sister Joanne Nicgorski, director of the center. "He came as a human so we can relate to the divine."

Although "we rejoice in remembering the historical event of Jesus' birth, we should not focus on him as a baby, but on the Savior coming into our human situation," she told Southern Cross.

Advent, which begins the church's liturgical year, "is a time to recall that God is always with us; he is always Emmanuel," the director explained. This season "presents us with the eternal promise that God continues to love and sustain us" - an Old Testament covenant calling for a faithful response.

"Jesus is present to us" during both tragedies and prosperous times, Sister Nicgorski said. Whether suffering comes from disease or natural disasters, "we can be joyful by relating our suffering to the day when we will celebrate in the heavenly banquet," and the bodies of the just will be glorified at the second coming of Christ.

During Advent Christians should become more aware they can change the world as they "wait and work for a just and compassionate society" and the end to wars and atrocities such as the recent massacre of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador, Sister Nicgorski said.

"God is continually being revealed to us; the most perfect revelation of God is Jesus," she explained. "We open our eyes to this

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Photo by Robert Burnett

CELEBRATION — Catherine Biernat, left, dressed in the native costume of Poland, and Yvonne Leplea, also from Poland, participated in a Thanksgiving celebration Nov. 22 at the Refuge and Resettlement Office of Catholic Charities, San Diego.

Catholic, Protestant leaders urge action on drug abuse

SAN DIEGO — Bishop Leo T. Maher and two non-Catholic bishops in San Diego have issued a joint statement on drug abuse in which they call for prayer, policy formulation and support for police enforcement to overcome a "poison (to) human society."

The statement, which urges all people to join the fight against "the plague of drugs," was signed by Bishop Maher, Bishop C. Brinkley Morton of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, and Bishop George D. McKinney, pastor of St. Stephen's Church of God in Christ and bishop of the Southern California Second Jurisdiction.

The bishops announced in the statement that they are dedicating the liturgical season of Advent, which begins Dec. 3, to drug awareness. As such they are calling for prayers of petition to be offered at "religious services in preparation for the joy of Christmas."

Bishop Maher told Southern Cross, "Everyone must get involved and support our police who put their lives on the line in the fight against drugs. We all must in some way put our lives on the line" for this cause.

In their statement the bishops said, "In the war against drugs, the police are fighting on the front lines, bravely risking their lives each day to win the battle. We are most grateful for their actions which are so vital in our society's efforts to overcome this grave problem."

They said, "The selling and using of illegal drugs is a direct attack on the dignity of human beings ... and thus on God himself.

"Therefore, those who manufacture and distribute these drugs in a sense murder and enslave those who use them. The users not only enslave themselves but also the in-

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'Pope's views helped lead to meeting with Gorbachev'

By Agostino Bono
Catholic News Service

ROME — Pope John Paul II's placing of Marxism and capitalism on the same ethical level helped make a papal meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev possible, said the Soviet leader's top adviser on Catholic affairs.

This shows the new Catholic thinking on world issues initiated by the pope, said Anatole Kovalski, expert on the Catholic Church for the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party.

The decision to hold the Dec. 1 Vatican meeting also resulted from the "new political concepts" of the Soviet Union, said Kovalski.

The re-evaluations show that the pope and Gorbachev hold many common positions on world affairs, although they differ on the reasons, he said.

An interview with Kovalski appeared Nov. 25 in the Rome newspaper La Repubblica. The interview took place in Moscow.

Kovalski praised the pope's "new way of looking at the world, putting Marxist collectivism and capitalist economics on the same plan and placing Catholicism above states and systems."

The pope's social encyclical, "On Social Concerns," which criticized Marxism and capitalism, "contain positions which make a dialogue widely possible," said Kovalski.

Gorbachev's new concepts include "substituting dialogue for force, putting man and his rights at the center of everything, believing in the spiritual dimension of a new civilization, which points to a new international morality," he added.

"Today it is clear that direct dialogue between the Soviet Union and the Vatican has become possible because the heads of both states are two personalities such as Gorbachev and Pope Wojtyla," he said referring to the pope's name before his election.

Although important differences remain, "we consider more important that which unites us to the pope than that which divides," Kovalski said.

Kovalski attributed much of the pope's new thinking to his being the first leader of the Catholic Church from Communist-ruled Eastern Europe.

"This pope could unite the concrete understanding of the socialist world with the conscience of the Western world," he said.

A common position held by the pope and Gorbachev is the need for a united Europe, he said.

"We and the Vatican say that there is a single civilization at the foundations of this Europe," Kovalski said. "The Vatican puts the accent on Christianity," he added. "We, while recognizing the important role of Christianity, say that other philosophies and cultures have contributed to the formation of the European identity," he said.

World AIDS Day scheduled

SAN DIEGO — Father Nicholas Christiana of the San Diego AIDS Chaplaincy Program will be among those participating in this year's World AIDS Day vigil Dec. 1 at the County Administration Building downtown.

The candlelight vigil will begin at 5:15 p.m. A spokesperson for the AIDS Assistance Fund said the purpose of the candles is to "light the way for our county government to see our sorrow and find their way to direct funding for needed AIDS services."

Throughout the world more than 160 countries will hold programs and sponsor events to highlight the ongoing efforts in the battle against the AIDS epidemic.

For further information, call Ellen at the AIDS Assistance Fund, 280-1500.

Old Town festivities include open house

OLD TOWN — The entire Old Town State Historic Park and its shops will be decked ou in holiday splendor for its annual Christmas open house Dec. 9, 6-9 p.m.

Visitors are invited to sample holiday refreshments in the shops while listening to carolers and musicians.

The Bazaar del Mundo will display a Nativity scene composed of six larger-than-life-size figures hand-carved by a Mexican artist.

For further information about the holiday festivities, call 237-6770.

Father James Reid, SJ, in residence at Immaculate Conception Church, Old Town, will give the invocation Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m., for Las Posadas, (the procession) which recreates the drama of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter for the birth of Jesus.

The procession begins at the Central Plaza and concludes at the Seeley Stable.

MADD to hold annual candlelight vigil

ALCALA PARK — Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) will conduct its annual "Candlelight Vigil of Remembrance and Hope" Dec. 11, 7:15 p.m., in the University Center at the University of San Diego.

The vigil is held in remembrance of those injured or killed by impaired drivers and also serves as a reminder of the consequences of impaired driving.

Anyone interested in having a candle lit in remembrance of someone can call 239-9466.



Photo by Dan E. Pitre

RIBBON CUTTING — Alexandra Vleisidees, a kindergartner of St. Mary's School, Escondido, and Maryann Coffey cut the ribbon Nov. 17 opening the new playground at the school, which was constructed Nov. 10-12 by volunteers, more than 40 families associated with the school. Coffey initiated and helped coordinate the effort, and much to her surprise at the ceremonies, the playground was dedicated to her. The monies used to purchase the $12,000 structure were raised through general fund-raising efforts of the Parent-Teacher Group, a candy sale, a jog-a-thon and contributions from the St. Mary's Extension Program.

Daughters of St. Paul celebrate beatification

SAN DIEGO — The Daughters of St. Paul community in San Diego, who operate the St. Paul Book and Film Center, downtown, are celebrating the beatification of Father Timothy Giaccardo (1896-1947), the first priest of the Society of St. Paul for priests and brothers.

Beatified on October by Pope John Paul II, Father Giaccardo was recruited by Father James Alberione (1884-1971) after the latter founded the Society of St. Paul. Father Alberione also founded the Daughters of St. Paul. These two orders carry out a parallel mission of evangelizing with the instruments of social communication.

Recognized for his strong leadership qualities, Blessed Giaccardo's life was marked by an extraordinary humility and profound spirit of prayer, said a spokesperson for the Daughters of St. Paul.

As the first beatified member of the Pauline family, Blessed Giaccardo is outstanding as the first modern-day apostle whose life was consecrated to God for the explicit purpose of evangelization with the media, said a spokesperson of the Daughters of St. Paul.

Hospice Sabbath draws Catholic participants

SAN DIEGO — More than 20,000 San Diegans from 86 congregations, including several Catholic parishes, participated in Hospice Sabbath Nov. 19, organized by San Diego Hospice to encourage peopoe to reflect on their spiritual health, to pray for those facing terminal illness and to learn about hospice care.

This is the largest number of participants ever for the event, which San Diego Hospice originated in 1986. Now, hospices throughout the country hold Hospice Sabbath programs to involve others in prayer for the dying.

Among the Catholic churches of San Diego that participated were: All Hallows and Mary, Star of the Sea, both in La Jolla; Holy Spirit, Oak Park; and St. John the Evangelist, serving Hillcrest, North Park and University Heights.

Bob Lindegren, San Diego Hospice chaplain, said, "Good health depends on much more than just physical needs. Our spirituality helps us make sense of what happens in our world; the importance of good spiritual health should not be overlooked."

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Foster grandparenting changed his life

By Maureen Nuesca
Southern Cross

For Edgar Carpenter, being a foster grandparent has changed his life completely. "I'm completely occupied as a senior citizen, day by day."

Carpenter is one of some 75 participants in the Foster Grandparent Program run by Catholic Charities. The federally-funded program consists of volunteer low-income men and women over the age of 60 who work four hours a day, five days a week in schools and medical facilities with children who are emotionally, mentally and physically handicapped.

The nationwide program will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its founding next year. Catholic Charities has been the San Diego sponsoring agent for 15 years, said Sister Susann Kernaghan, CHS, program director.

Sister Kernaghan said the program provides "meaningful part-time volunteer opportunities (for senior citizens) to render support and person to person service to children."

Sister Kernaghan said she believes the program is so successful because grandparents "give (the children) love and support. They're not there to get the child trouble and the child feels that love and warmth from the grandparent."

Carpenter, who has been in the program for three years, works as a tutor at Our Lady's School, downtown San Diego. Since school began in September, he has worked directly with fifth-grader Emanuel Martinez who, because of a language barrier, is having some difficulty with his studies. Carpenter spends four hours a day with the student, helping him in math, reading and language.

"He's improving day by day," said Carpenter.

The young student told Southern Cross Nov. 17 that he likes having a foster grandparent because "he teaches me and is good at explaining things."

Dr. William Moredock, clinical psychologist and director of counseling for Catholic Charities, said "the care and warmth that emanates from the grandparents is invaluable in the children's lives. It gives them a sense that they matter. For the grandparents, (the program) is rewarding because they are a meaningful part of the children's lives — they're giving back to people who desperately need it."

Moredock said he believes the program works because the volunteer grandparents have a "non-judgmental acceptance" of the children.

Mary Harris, a foster grandparent who volunteers her time at the Cavick School in El Cajon, for physically and emotionally handicapped children, said, "The moment I arrive (at the school) I feel I'm special to (the children). I put my arms around them to reassure them that I'm there for them."



Photo by Maureen Nuesca

SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP — Foster grandparent Edgar Carpenter, left, helps Emanuel Martinez, a fifth-grader at Our Lady's School, San Diego, with his studies. Carpenter is one of some 75 grandparents who volunteer their time to help and care for children with physical, mental or emotional handicaps. The Foster Grandparent Program is sponsored by Catholic Charities.

5,000 expected for diocesan Guadalupe celebrations

By Maureen Nuesca
Southern Cross

SAN DIEGO — Bishop Leo T. Maher, Coadjutor Bishop Robert H. Brom, and Auxiliary Bishop Gilbert E. Chavez have invited the people of the San Diego diocese to participate in the annual celebrations honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, in anticipation of her feast day Dec. 12.

This year's celebrations, scheduled for Dec. 8 and 10 in Imperial Valley and San Diego respectively, are expected to attract some 5,000 participants.

Bishop Maher will be the principal celebrant at a 7 p.m. liturgy Dec. 8 at Casa Mañana at the California Mid-Winter Fairgrounds in the Imperial Valley. Priests from the area will concelebrate the Mass and Father Manuel Mesa, OMI, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Niland, will be the homilist.

This year's coordinator for the Imperial Valley celebration, Sister Maria Luisa Valdez, OLVM, catechetical consultant for the Imperial Valley, said the Mass is a "celebration honoring Mary — on the feast of the Immaculate Conception and in anticipation of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe."

Following the Mass, music and refreshments will be provided.

In San Diego, the annual celebration will begin at 1 p.m., Dec. 10 with a procession from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 1770 Kearney Ave., to the Community Concourse, downtown.

Bishop Maher will be the principal celebrant of the 2 p.m. Mass in Golden Hall with Bishop Brom, Bishop Chavez and some 30-40 priests of the diocese concelebrating. Bishop Brom will be the homilist.

The bishops of Tijuana and Mexicali have also been invited, said Father Richard Brown, SJ, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and coordinator of the event.

Father Brown said the annual celebration is important because it "is a feast for everybody and is one of the few times during the year we honor Mary outside and through the streets of San Diego. It shows the unity of the people and our love of the Blessed Mother."

Following the liturgy, participants are invited to a reception and dinner sponsored by the Guadalupana Confederation at St. Mary's parish hall, National City.

The annual diocesan celebrations honor the Blessed Virgin, who, in 1531, appeared on a hillside near Mexico City to an Indian named Juan Diego and instructed him to build a church. In order to do so, Diego had to prove to the bishop of Mexico, Juan de Zumarraga, that his vision was authentic.

Mary appeared to the Indian again, presenting him with roses (which were not in season). Diego wrapped the flowers in his cloak and returned to Bishop Zumarraga. The roses had remained intact and when taken from the cloak, an image of the Blessed Virgin remained. An adobe shrine was built immediately.

The cloak with the Virgin's image is currently enshrined at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

In 1754, Pope Benedict XIV authorized a Mass to be celebrated in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12 ever year. She was designated patroness of Latin America in 1910 by Pope Pius X, and in 1945, Pope Pius XII designated her patroness of the Americas.

In 1987, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops raised the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the rank of feast in the proper calendar of the dioceses of the United States of America. At the same time, they also approved proper texts for the feast based on those found in the Misal Romano, the sacramentry approved by the Mexican bishops conference.

In Loving Memory

Into Thy hands, O Lord, we commend the spirits of these beloved ones who are gone before us into the realm of Thy eternal happiness and peace. Amen.

PETER CUMMINS Funeral Mass; Nov. 17, 1989 at Our Lady of Sacred Heart.

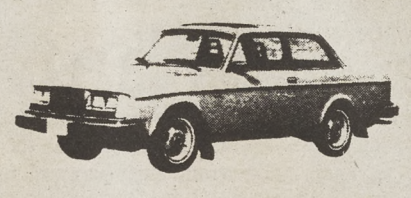
MARIA BATISTA Funeral Mass; Nov. 16, 1989 at Holy Cross Chapel.

EMMETT LONERGAN Funeral Mass; Nov. 17, 1989 at San Diego Mission de Alcala.

JOAO MEDEIROS Funeral Mass; Nov. 18, 1989 at St. Vincent de Paul.

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Bishop Maher courageously exercised duty

The national polls have revealed that the majority of Americans do not favor abortion for convenience, economic reasons or sexual determination. In short, they are opposed to abortion on demand.

Faced with this reality, following the Webster decision, the political strategists for the pro-abortion advocates made an astute, even brilliant decision. They would shift the focus from the issue of abortion and place it under the rubric of the democratic doctrine of "freedom of choice." This clever appeal to a basic principle of democracy would psychologically picture the pro-life voter as almost un-American.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The bishops of this country immediately recognized this intelligent but nevertheless colossal lie and on Nov. 9, in Baltimore at the U.S. Catholic Conference meeting stripped away all illusion. In defending the traditional teaching of the church, they issued a statement that reverberated through out the Catholic world: "No Catholic can responsibly take a 'pro-choice' stand when the choice in question involves the taking of innocent human life."

Just prior to this meeting, Bishop Leo T. Maher made a clear statement to the Catholics of this diocese. On Nov. 2, in the Southern Cross, he repeated what the California bishops already stated, "They (pro-choice Catholics) must recognize this is such a vital moral issue that they cannot proclaim to be Catholic and 'pro-choice'... ."

Thus Bishop Maher's recent sanction on a public official is a logical extension of the teaching of the church. In fact such a sanction applies to all Catholics, be they public or private individuals.

The shepherds of the flock have made it clear. It is not only a sin to have an abortion or to perform an abortion; it is also a serious sin, even a contradiction to one's Catholic identity, *to promote the "pro-choice" agenda.* It has always been taught that if Catholics commit serious sin they may not receive the Eucharist until they admit their error and ask God for forgiveness.

If this teaching applies to all Catholics, not just Lucy Killea, then why did she deserve a special letter of notification? The answer is simple to a believing Catholic. She is a public figure who was making a specific television and newspaper appeal not only to non-Catholics but more importantly to Catholics within her district to vote for her precisely because she is pro-choice.

For the bishop not to act would only dilute the teaching of the church, and the recent statements of the California bishops and the U.S. Catholic Conference. Taken within this context, it was a scandal of utmost gravity that had to be addressed, not to effect the votes of his flock but to save their souls. Bishop Maher was not "heavy-handed," but courageously exercising his duty as the Ordinary of San Diego.

Charles S. Smith, M.D.
Escondido

For or against Jesus?

I had to write and express my disgust at politicians such as Lucy Killea who think that they can divorce their beliefs from their political life. How naive do they think the voters are?

Our person, our being, is a total make up of all we believe. I for one could never vote for someone who believes one way and says they will react differently in a political situation. That person is a total hypocrite in their beliefs.

When the case becomes a situation involving life, be it a fetus/unborn baby or a full grown human being, I want to be sure of the total status of the politician I vote into office.

Jesus said, "You are either for me or against me; you cannot be lukewarm." Somehow I just can't see Jesus being for killing the beginning of human life.

As for free choice — and the right to do what we want with our bodies — get off the case. Society has always had the right since the beginning of time to stop someone from hurting themselves or others. Selfishness has some people concerned only with themselves and with no regard for the well-being of others.

Allen F. Normand
La Mesa

Bible says 'obey superiors'

To the Christian the Bible is the Word of God. I suggest that those who do not understand Bishop Maher's denial of Holy Communion to Lucy Killea open their Bibles to St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews, 13:17, "Obey your superiors and

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SOUTHERN CROSS

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New models for our schools

MY POINT OF VIEW
by EDWARD KUJAWA & MARY BIXBY

The questions facing Catholic schools are questions open to anyone these days. In a time when collaboration and shared responsibility are critical buzz words no one is willing to take the wrap for moving in a risky or unpopular fashion. Significant change can only be embarked upon if the public is behind the move and willing to support a movement aimed at the survival of the entire system.

Bringing in a development person (as the San Diego diocesan School's Office has done) is a remedy which some Catholic schools in our nation have found helpful. The secondary schools in our diocese which are moving more successfully are doing so because they are serious about alerting their public to the schools' needs. There are many corporations, organizations and private individuals willing to support Catholic education.

Catholic money, however, is much more limited in San Diego County. St. Vincent de Paul and the University of San Diego court it on a big-time basis. Their excellent success has been due to several people willing to take some pretty risky steps. The Catholic community is very proud of their efforts.

But where does that leave the 48 elementary schools in the San Diego diocese that are struggling for survival? Exactly how much money will our development people need to raise before there is any real impact?

Who is willing to propose a new model for schools? Ten years ago our pastors would have never considered any alternatives to the traditional parish school. However, the continued pressure of financing schools has created a new openness to alternatives.

Maybe five or six parishes out of 48 can afford to support a school without causing a serious financial impact on the parish. Enrollment for many hangs around 200, if they are lucky, and subsidies diocesan-wide are into the millions. The school is a problem that pastors would willingly surrender if someone proposed a workable model. Pastors do not want Catholic schools to close, but for many the possibility of making a difference passed out of their hands long before they were assigned to a particular site.

A new model involves a radical departure from what we see today. The entire Catholic community must commit to all Catholic schools if they are to continue to serve a broad-based public. No one would support a movement toward a "private" system which only serves those in higher socio-economic circles.

In order to realistically consider the restructuring needed to accomplish livable conditions for parish and school, all parish communities throughout the diocese must declare a commitment to a Catholic school system. A shared responsibility could absolve parishes from financial responsibilities they can no longer support.

Shared responsibility would require specific long-range planning which would be accountable to a public focused on a successful plan for growth and development. Schools which need closing could do so in a systematic way which allows all those involved to give input.

Centralized warehousing, adequate training of personnel, uniform pay scales, coordination of federal programs, realistic planning in relation to maintenance and expansion of facilities are all pretty standard givens for effective administration. The possibilities for positive outcomes are infinite.

At present Catholic elementary schools are 48 entities which are competing for teachers, students and funds. Many pastors are already calling for relief from an impossible situation. The principals are close behind. It's up to the public now. No educational leader is going to take up the banner for a new model if it means dragging a screaming public along. If Catholic schools fail we cannot blame bishops, superintendents, principals or anyone but ourselves. It is time to respectfully request that new models be explored.

Dr. Kujawa is the coordinator of the Elementary Teacher Program at the University of San Diego. Mary Bixby is currently the principal at Our Lady's School, San Diego, and is completing her doctoral studies at USD. They will be making a presentation on "Alternative Models for Catholic Education" at the next conference of the National Catholic Educational Association.

What brought the Wall down?

MAKING PEACE
by IVAN J. KAUFFMAN

Astonishment was the only word for it. Nobody believed it would ever happen, and when it did all we could do was stare at the TV screen with lumps in our throats and tears in our eyes. The significance of what we were seeing went deeper than anyone's words could reach.

Behind our astonishment was an obvious question: how could something so major happen so suddenly, end so quickly, and be so peaceful? A month ago the Berlin Wall was a permanent part of the European landscape. Now people are tearing it down with hammers and chisels. In a single weekend what had been the major symbol of the Cold War became a souvenir.

There were those who claimed the Wall came down because of military pressure, but evidence for that was hard to find. The military on both sides of the Wall seemed as surprised and moved as the rest of us. If the military had brought the Wall down, no one was taking the credit or could explain exactly how they had achieved this momentous result.

What the television pictures showed were masses of ordinary people voting with their feet and their bodies. It appeared to be the combined personal courage of millions of people which had forced the East German government, after 40 years of dictatorship, to listen to its own people.

It was not our tanks which blasted a hole in the Wall; it was thousands of East Germans fleeing their own nation in a desperate search for freedom and opportunity. It wasn't the MX missile or the Stealth bomber or Star Wars satellites which frightened the East German Communist Party into giving up power and promising to hold free elections; it was the hundreds of thousands of its own citizens marching in the streets, shouting "Democracy now!"

What we witnessed was another example of people power, the remarkable phenomenon of ordinary citizens nonviolently demanding their rights. We first saw this new political technique at work three years ago when the people of the Philippines used it to end the Marcos dictatorship. A few weeks later, the Haitian people brought an end to the Duvalier dictatorship the same way.

Throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union the churches — Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox — have played a pivotal role in the people power movements there, just as they did in the Philippines and Haiti. The church's role has been obvious in Poland, but it was no less important in East Germany.

An East German pastor whose church was the gathering point for some of the marches said, "For seven Mondays the Leipzigers marched through the city and called out, 'We are the People!' and the Wall came tumbling down." He added, "This peaceful revolution is unbelievable for all of us who have taken part, seen and heard it."

Next door in Hungary, the Catholic primate, Cardinal Paskai, was asked whether he had been as surprised by the changes in East Europe as we were in the West. His answer was an emphatic "Yes!" He added that he believes the momentous changes in Hungary, where the Communist Party has voted itself out of existence, were caused by the rededication of the nation to the Blessed Virgin last year. To him events in Eastern Europe can only be accounted for by divine providence.

It's easy to dismiss Cardinal Paskai's analysis as the sort of pious thing which bishops are supposed to say, but has anyone else offered a better explanation?

Ivan J. Kauffman writes from Washington, D.C., on public affairs for the Catholic press.

'Obey superiors'

Continued from page 4

be subject to them, for they keep watch as having to render an account of your souls; so that they may do this with joy, and not with grief, for that would not be expedient for you."

Bishop Maher is a true Shepherd guarding his flock. Like Jesus before him, he has, out of love, laid down his life, and they hate him for it. But Jesus did tell us that if he was of the world, they would love him. What joy for Bishop Maher to read the words found in the Beatitudes "Blessed are you when they reproach you and persecute you, and speaking falsely, say all manner of evil against you for my sake. Rejoice and exult, because your reward is great in heaven; for so did they persecute the prophets who were before you."

The Christians changed the Roman empire and the destiny of the entire world. Political power does not change with noble appeals. It changes when they who hold it live the teachings of their God.

Ruth Cerano
San Diego

All to protect life

Every individual, whether he be priest or professor, politician or newscaster, if he has any decency of self-respect, has the obligation to speak out and speak out forcefully against not only those who take the life of the helpless unborn human being, but also those who even express themselves as being in favor of it. Otherwise, he reduces himself to a level even lower than that of the beast. For the beasts protect their unborn as well as their newborn. Only humans deliberately destroy their unborn.

Call it whatever you want. Give it any fancy name: freedom of choice, reproductive rights! But murder is murder! And one day we shall pay dearly for it!

To those who would insist that religion has no place in politics, I would reply that every one — priest, professor, politician, newscaster — every human being knows in his heart that he is living on borrowed time. For when the Giver of life chooses to shout off the breath of life, no power on earth can save him.

James A. Bartley
San Diego

Priest welcomed back

At the season of Thanksgiving, we at St. Leo Mission Church thank the Lord for Father Bud Kaicher's return. In his ministry, Father Bud works for all life, the "Seamless Garment."

Many of you know of his positive work as diocesan director of youth and young adult ministries.

In the few weeks he has been at St. Leo, the community has had a large welcoming Fiesta Sunday for him. They on their own have a weekly Novena for his ministry.

His words to me were "carry on." So we are busy bringing Head Start on the ground and forming a St. Leo advisory committee. The spirit of community is alive and growing. Welcome back Father Bud.

Deacon Al P. Graff
St. James and St. Leo
Catholic Community
Solana Beach

No 'pro-choice' deans

Hooray for Father Kaicher and the published letter of James E. Hamilton (*Southern Cross*, Nov. 9).

One wonders who among our clergy, the Bishop included, would be willing to follow in Father Kaicher's footsteps. Words of protest against abortion come easy in sermons and media meetings, but what about positive, personal confrontations with the law!

You stated in your response to Mr. Hamilton's remarks that the University of San Diego is an independent, Catholic University and is not controlled by the diocese. If I read you correctly you are saying the university is not required to abide by teachings of the church. If this is so, its time for the university to sever all relations with the Catholic Church and relocate away from Alcala Park. We don't need pro-choice law school deans in a Catholic University.

George V. Shaefer
San Diego

USD is required to abide by church teaching since it calls itself a Catholic university. What I was saying is that since it is not run by the diocese the bishop does not have total control over USD. As chairman of the Board of Trustees, he has one vote. I also clarified that the dean is not a staff member of the diocese but of the university. — Editor

Summit of century

For the past 40 years we have witnessed a procession of American presidents and Russian Communist leaders meeting at summits in Washington, in Moscow and elsewhere.

But the "summit of the century" is about to take place this week for the first time since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. On Friday, Dec. 1 at the Vatican, Mikhail Gorbachev, first secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, president of the U.S.S.R. and leader of world communism will be received in audience by Pope John Paul II, head of the Roman Catholic Church and the world's greatest spiritual leader.

A prophecy of Nostradamus, which speaks "of a certain 'Mikhail, the marked one' who would rule all Russia until the next century" has been taken by many in Europe to refer to Soviet leader Gorbachev.

His meeting with Pope John Paul II is certain to mix prophetic expectations with pragmatic politics and surprises. The two men have much in common: both are Slavs; both are leading great human communities on the eve of the Third Millennium; and both have supported the idea of a "common European home."

As for surprises? Perhaps the road which might take the pope to Moscow's Red Square may grow straighter and shorter once President Gorbachev sets foot inside the Apostolic Palace beside St. Peter's Square.

Michael G. Kielty, M.D.
San Diego

Day late, dollar short

Re: Viewpoints (*Southern Cross*, Nov. 2): 1. "Rescuers treated as criminals;" 2. "Pain compliance must end;" 3. "Democracy in education;" 4: "Officer wept at brutality;" 5. "USD's Catholicity."

The words "a day late and a dollar short" comes to mind on all the moral problems besetting not only Catholics, but all avowed Christians in the U.S.!

For 47 years I have been waiting for the pulpits of Catholics and Protestants to attack the diabolical decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, which seemed to me as an average citizen, to be authored by the devil himself!

The Supreme Court has, with little or no opposition, opened up the dikes of divorce, child abuse, pornography, crime, abortion, drugs and homosexuality just to name a few evils! Year in and year out all the pulpits remained silent throughout the land. As a sinful Catholic who was taught to: "obey, pray, and pay" I have been severely troubled by the aforementioned silence!

Those whose vocation it is to try to protect souls from the ravages of "the prince of darkness" have been strangely silent. The terrible reality is the Bible has taught us nothing and we are all guilty of kneeling to the "golden calf" which is the epitome of evil!

Robert F. Conley
San Diego

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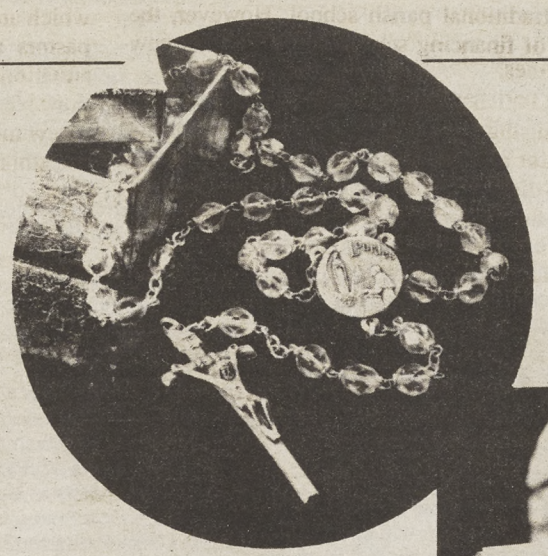
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CALENDAR

Bishops' upcoming appointments

Bishop Leo T. Maher

Friday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m., Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, San Diego — Memorial Mass for deceased El Salvadoran Jesuit priests and lay companions.

Friday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m. Casa de Manana, California Mid-Winter Fairgrounds, Imperial — Concelebrated Mass.

Bishop Robert H. Brom

Thursday, Nov. 30, 11:45 a.m., Horton Grand Hotel — Newsmakers Luncheon with San Diego Press Club.

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2 p.m., Kolbe Center — Meeting with University of San Diego Campus Ministry Team.

Friday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m., St. Catherine Laboure Church, San Diego — Cursillo bilingual Grand Ultreya Mass.

Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m., Holy Family Church, Linda Vista — Mass for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m., Founders Chapel, USD — Mass for alumni of St. Mary's College, Winona, followed by brunch.

Sunday, Dec., 3 p.m., Founders Chapel, USD — Prayer service and reception with women religious.

Monday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m., Church of the Resurrection, Escondido — Escondido Deanery meeting and luncheon.

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m., Marriott Hotel, Mission Valley — Christmas Luncheon of the auxiliary of the Sisters of Social Service.

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m., Good Shepherd Church, Mira Mesa — Mass for Serra Club followed by dinner.

Auxiliary Bishop Gilbert E. Chavez

Friday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m., Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, San Diego — Mass.

Saturday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, San Diego — 50th anniversary Mass for Father Roberto Omana, former pastor of St. Anthony De Padua Church, National City.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Church, El Cajon — Hispanic committee meeting.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m., Good Shepherd Church, Mira Mesa — Anniversary Mass.

Friday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m., Little Flower Haven, La Mesa — Mass for Carmelite Sisters.

Friday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m. — Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, San Ysidro — Mass.

Parishes

Mary, Star of the Sea, La Jolla, Chancel Choir, will present "Amahl and the Night Visitors," a Christmas opera, Dec. 8-9, 8 p.m., in the parish hall. Admission is $6. All are invited. For reservations, call 566-4466.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Calexico, will hold its annual Christmas party for senior citizens Dec. 17, beginning at noon. Volunteers are still needed fo prepare and serve food and help with clean-up. For details, call Mary Aguilar, 357-1822.

Our Lady of Light, Descanso, will hold an Advent prayer service with Advent wreath, candles and scripture reading Dec. 3, 6 p.m., in the parish center. Refreshments will be served. The annual Christmas dance will be held Dec. 8, 8 p.m., in the parish center. Hosted by the Altar and Rosary Society. Couples are asked to bring an unwrapped Christmas gift which will be distributed to homeless children. For ticket information, call Mary Ann Webb, 445-2004.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside, Altar Society, will hold its Christmas boutique and bake sale Dec. 10, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sacred Heart, Ocean Beach, lecture series continues Dec. 4 and 11, 7:30 p.m. Topic is "Our Lady and the Church — A Living Tradition of Devotion to the Mother of Christ." Presented by Father Burt Boudoin. Call 224-2746.

St. Brigid, Pacific Beach, will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1990. Events are scheduled for each month throughout the year, beginning with a Mass Feb. 4 at which Bishop Leo T. Maher will be the principal celebrant. A commemorative calendar with historical photos is available. For information, call Ann McDaniel, 488-9665. The women's club will sponsor a Christmas dinner and dance Dec. 16. Music by the L and M Trio. Tickets are $10. Call Mary Martin, 272-6025.

St. Francis, Vista, will continue its evangelization seminar 7-10 p.m., Dec. 4, 11 and 18 in the Father Ullman Hall. Topics focus on "God's Gifts To Us." Conducted by Msgr. Douglas Regin, pastor, and Catholic lay evangelist John Clauder. For more, call 945-8008. The annual Christmas boutique will be held Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Features include gifts, baked goods and a raffle for Monterey Pine Christmas trees. Proceeds benefit the school. Call 945-8000.

St. Gabriel, Poway, will sponsor a trip to see "The Price is Right" game show Dec. 4. Cost is $20. For reservations, call Frances, 748-1330.

St. James, Solana Beach, adult education series continues with the Little Rock Series through January. Call 755-7669 for dates and time. Father Laurence Sweeney, associate pastor at St. James, will conduct a lecture on the sacraments of healing Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m. The 50 Plus Club will sponsor a pot-luck dinner, white elephant gift exchange and entertainment Dec. 1, 7 p.m. For more, call Mig Boyce, 755-6907.

St. Margaret, Oceanside, will conduct CPR training Dec. 9 and 16, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Cost is $12.50 and includes materials. Class limit is 15. Call 940-5560.

St. Mary, National City, will hold its second annual music festival Dec. 2 in the parish center. Hosted by the young adult folk group. For ticket information, call 474-5777, or 267-5865. Proceeds benefit the parish center.

St. Patrick, North Park, will hold a "Little Elves Workshop," Dec. 9. Children, ages 3-10 can participate in games, crafts, lunch, videos and a magician. Sponsored by the youth group. Call 295-0553.

St. Vincent de Paul, Mission Hills, holds a meeting for seniors each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon in the parish hall. Activities include speakers, films, bingo and fresh produce sold at reasonable prices. The mission circle will sponsor a trip to the Grand Dinner Theater in Anaheim Dec. 2 to see "Hello Dolly." Cost is $38 and includes the show and lunch. For reservations, call 298-2081, or 291-6709.

Groups

Shield of Roses will sponsor a Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church in El Cajon, Dec. 2, 7:50 a.m. and on Dec. 9 at St. Martin of Tours Church, La Mesa. Immediately following Mass, there will be a rosary procession at Dr. E. Allred's abortion clinic, 8881 Fletcher Parkway.

St. Patrick's Seniors can see "Funny Girl" at Lawrence Welk's Theater Dec. 5. Cost is $39. For details, call Carrie Johnson, 282-7109.

Catholic Alumni Club invites single Catholics, ages 25-45, to a Christmas dinner and dance Dec. 9, 7 p.m., at El Torito Restaurant, Harbor Island. Mail $20 by Dec. 4 to CACSD, P.O. Box 83293, San Diego, Ca., 92138. For information, call 563-1458.

Knights of Columbus, Assumption Council, will sponsor a Christmas party for children Dec. 9, 2:30 p.m., at St. Rose of Lima parish hall, Chula Vista. The Christian Youth Theater will give a special presentation. Later that evening there will be a 5 p.m. Mass followed by dinner and dancing. Music provided by the Dan Rivers Trio. Cost is $25 per couple, $15 per person, $8 for young adults and children under 12 are free. For reservations, call David Matsunaga, 422-4802.

Italian Catholic Federation, St. Rose of Lima Branch, will sponsor its annual chicken barbeque Dec. 3, 12:30-6 p.m., in the parish center. All are invited. Pre-sale tickets are $4 or $4.50 at the door. Children are $2.50. For more, call 422-5404, or 427-1352.

Young Ladies Institute, Stella Maris, will sponsor a Christmas bazaar Dec. 9-10 at St. Mary's Church Center, Oceanside. Features include a boutique, crafts, baked goods, plants and a raffle.

Immaculate Conception Fraternity, secular Franciscan order of St. Francis, will celebrate a Mass, and hold a meeting and Christmas party Dec. 3, 1:30 p.m., at Immaculate Conception Church, Old Town. Call 298-7038.

Secular Franciscans, third order, will meet Dec. 10, 2 p.m., in the Retreat Chapel at Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside.

The San Diego Catholic Forum will hold its monthly meeting Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., at Nazareth School, 6333 Rancho Mission Rd. Father Earl La Riviere, educator, will be the keynote speaker. For information, call 486-1167.

DCCW, Escondido and Oceanside Deaneries, will hold a Christmas party luncheon Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m., at Grand Tradition, 1602 South Mission Rd., Fallbrook. Donation is $10.50. For reservations, call Margaret Jedlicka, 745-4030.

La Jolla Deanery Council of Catholic Women will sponsor a Christmas party for the residents of Nazareth Home, Mission Valley, Dec. 12, beginning with an 11 a.m. Mass. Each person is asked to bring two dozen cookies and a gift for a man or woman appropriately marked.

Serra Clubs meet: in Old Town the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 224-5828; in East San Diego the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, 278-5489; in North County inland the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 744-1497; and for North County coastal, call 436-1478.

Liturgies

Mass with prayer for healing celebrated by Father Ralph Weishaar, OFM, will be held Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., at Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside.

A Czechoslovakian Mass will be celebrated by Father Dimitrij Colankin on Dec. 17, 4 p.m., at St. John parish hall, 4005 Normal Ave., San Diego. For details, call Mary Carlisle, 295-1718.

Mass at the Newman Center, San Diego State University, will be celebrated every weekend during the fall semester. Times: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Call 583-9181.

Retreats

Marriage Encounter will sponsor weekends Dec. 8-10, Jan. 12-14 and Feb. 16-18. For information, call 461-5683 or 747-8089.

Christmas preparation retreat will be held Dec. 15-17 at Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside. Conducted by Father Evan Howard, OFM. Cost is $65. Call 757-3659.

Retreat for women at El Carmel Retreat Center, will be held Jan 5-7. Cost is $70 for single, and $60 for a double. Cost for round-trip bus fare is $20. For reservations, call Jean Martin, 589-8999, or 446-7518.

Annual Women's Retreat, sponsored by the Women's Christian Fellowship, will be held Feb. 2-4 at Oakbridge. Conducted by Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, author. The theme is "To Heal the Brokenhearted." Send registration fee of $75 to Women's Christian Fellowship, c/o St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 6628 Santa Isabel, Carlsbad, Ca., 92008. For more, call 436-3875.

"This Jesus Who We Love and Preach," a retreat linking Jesus in the Gospels to modern times, will be conducted Feb. 2-4 at Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside. Led by Father Max Oliva, SJ. Cost is $75 per person. A $25 deposit is required. If interested, contact Father Oliva, c/o St. Columba parish, 3327 Glencolum Dr., San Diego, Ca., 92123, or call 233-1048.

Spiritual Ministry Center offers individually directed retreats. Center is directed by three Religious of the Sacred Heart. Cost is $35 per day. For more, call 224-9444.

Workshops

Bible study will be held Mondays, 7-8 p.m., at Holy Spirit parish, San Diego. Seminarian Rich Perozich will conduct the meetings. Call 262-2435.

Scriptural Women meet weekly on Thursdays, 9:15-11 a.m., at Holy Trinity Church, El Cajon. Theme through Advent is "Women of the Bible." For details, call 444-9425.

San Luis Rey charismatic prayer meetings are held Sunday evenings, 8-9:30 p.m., and Tuesdays, 10:30-noon, in the Lasuen room, Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside.

Ministers of the Eucharist training for Spanish-speaking was rescheduled to Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Church of the Resurrection, Escondido. Sponsored by the Center for Liturgy and Prayer. Call 293-3375.

A preparatory course based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius will be conducted by Father Jerry Bevilacqua, OSA, Jan 16, 23 and 30 at the Augustinian Chapel, 3266 Nutmeg St., San Diego, from 7-9 p.m. Course is for people interested in making a directed retreat and/or as an introduction to the ministry of spiritual direction. Fee is $3 per session. Call 284-2674.

High Schools

Academy of Our Lady of Peace, Normal Heights, lecture series entitled "Ladies Night Out" Dec. 5, 7-9 p.m. Guest speaker for December is Myrna Horn, founder of "Mere Image." Tickets are $10. Call 297-2537.

TV-Radio

"Kingdom Living," a Catholic study of the Word using the Sunday readings, is broadcast on Saturdays from 7-8 p.m. on Cox Cable-Channel 26 and on Dimension Cable. The show also airs Sundays from 7-8 p.m. on Southwestern Cable-Channel 11. Hosted by Deacons Bob Mueller and Tim Treadwell.

"Sunday Focus," a program featuring religious news from San Diego and around the world, is broadcast on Sunday at 7:00 a.m. on KGTV-Channel 10. Produced by the San Diego Ecumenical Conference.

Sunday Mass, a Catholic liturgy for television, is broadcast every Sunday at 6:30 a.m. on KNSD-TV Channel 39.

Cable only — CCN and UNI are aired by about half of the San Diego area cables, but are not listed in some TV publications. Consult your cable guide.

Sunday, Santa Misa, 7 a.m., UNI. Father Michael Manning, 11:30 p.m., CCN.

Saturday, from 3-7:30 p.m. Check CCN listing.

"Father Michael Manning" airs on television station KSCI, Channel 18, UHF, Thursdays, 4:30-5 p.m.

The Daughters of St. Paul can be heard in Spanish, Saturday mornings, Radio KMJC, AM, at 7:30 a.m.

Family Talk from Covenant House can be heard every Sunday night on radio station KVSD, Vista, from 7-9 p.m.

Have an event?

Calendar items must be received in writing by noon the Friday before publication on Thursday of the following week. Please send items at least two weeks in advance. We cannot accept items via telephone. Announcements will be published as space permits. Mail to: Calendar, *Southern Cross*, **P.O. Box 81869, San Diego, Calif. 92138.**

Compiled by Maureen Nuesca

Obispos invitan a participar en fiestas Guadalupanas

Southern Cross

SAN DIEGO — El Obispo Leo T. Maher, el Obispo Coadjutor Robert H. Brom, y el Obispo Auxiliar Gilberto E. Chávez, han invitado al pueblo de la Diócesis de San Diego a participar en las celebraciones anuales en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, patrona de las Américas, en anticipación de su día, el 12 de diciembre.

Se espera que las celebraciones de este año, programadas para el 8 de diciembre en el Valle Imperial y el 10 de diciembre en San Diego, atraigan a algunos 5,000 participantes.

El Obispo Maher será el celebrante principal de la Santa Misa el 8 de diciembre en Casa Mañana, en los terrenos del California Mid-Winter Fairgrounds en Imperial. Sacerdotes de esa área concelebrarán la Misa y el Padre Manuel Mesa, OMI, párroco de la Iglesia del Inmaculado Corazon de María en Niland, será el homilista.

La coordinadora de la celebración en el Valle Imperial, la Hermana María Luisa Valdez, OLVM, consultora de catequésis, dijo que la Misa es una "celebración en honor de María — en la fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción y en anticipación de la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe." Enseguida de la Misa habrá música y refrigerio.

En San Diego, la celebración anual empezará a la 1:00 p.m. el día 10 de diciembre con una procesión de la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, 1770 Kearney Ave., al Community Concourse en el centro de San Diego.

El Obispo Maher será el celebrante principal de la Santa Misa a las 2:00 p.m. en Golden Hall, acompañado del Obispo Brom, el Obispo Chávez, y unos 30 a 40 sacerdotes de la diócesis que concelebrarán. El Obispo Brom será el homilista.

Los obispos de Tijuana y Mexicali han sido invitados, dijo el Padre Richard Brown, SJ, párroco de la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y coordinador del evento.

El Padre Brown dijo que la celebración anual es importante porque es "una fiesta para todos y es una de esas pocas ocasiones durante el año en que honramos a María públicamente y por las calles de San Diego. Esto demuestra la unidad del pueblo y nuestro amor hacia nuestra Santa Madre."

Depués de la Liturgia, los participantes están invitados a una recepción y cena organizada por la Confederación Guadalupana en el salón parroquial de la Iglesia de Santa María en National City.

Las celebraciones diocesanas anuales rinden honor a la Santísima Virgen, quien en 1531 apareció al indio Juan Diego en un cerro cerca de la Ciudad de Mexico, y le pidió que allí se erigiera un templo. Para poder hacerlo, Juan Diego tuvo que convencer al Obispo de México, Juan de Zumárraga, que su visión había sido auténtica.

María se volvió a aparecer ante el indio y el dijo que cortara unas rosas de un lugar que ella le indicó (esto era en invierno y no era temporada de rosas). Juan Diego hizo lo que la Virgen le indicó, envolvió las flores en su túnica (tilma), y regresó a ver al Obispo Zumárraga. Las rosas estaban intactas y cuando Juan Diego abrió su tilma, la imagen milagrosa de la Santísima Virgen apareció en ella. Inmediatamente se construyó allí un templo de adobe.

La tilma con la imagen de la Virgen está actualmente guardada y es venerada en la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Ciudad de México.

En 1754, el Papa Benedicto XIV autorizó que se celebrara la Misa en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el día 12 de diciembre cada año. Fue designada patrona de Latinoamerica en 1910 por el Papa Pío X, y en 1945 el Papa Pío XII la deisgnó patrona de las Américas.

En 1987, la Conferencia Nacional de Obispo Católicos de Estados Unidos elevó la celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe al rango de fiesta en el calendario propio de las diócesis de este país. Al mismo tiempo, aprobaron textos propios para esta fiesta basados en aquellos encontrados en el Misal Romano, aprobado por la conferencia episcopal mexicana.



Foto de Robert Burnett

ALABANDO AL SEÑOR — Algunas de las mas de 1,000 personas que asistieron al seminario diocesano patrocinado por el Centro Diocesano de Renovación Carismática el 18 y 19 de noviembre en el San Diego Convention and Performing Arts Center, ofrecen alabanzas al Señor. El evento, con el tema "Señor, Señor, sana y perdona a tu Iglesia," ofreció talleres sobre evangelización y una asamblea general por el Padre Matthew Linn, SJ. El Sr. Obispo Chávez fue el celebrante principal de la Misa de apertura del seminario (Southern Cross, el 23 de noviembre).

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Bishops urge all to fight drugs

Continued from page 1
nocent members of their communities who become the victims of drug-related crimes."

Prayer can be part of the solution because it "permeates a person with new strength, special inspiration and proper motivation," enabling a person "to renounce what is inhuman and to choose what is human. ... A prayerful person can beat the habit."

On Nov. 2 the three local bishops issued a joint statement in which they urged all people of the community "to join together in solidarity in a war against pornography and violence."

The following is the text of the bishops' statement on drugs:

We all should join with the President in fighting the plague of drugs, including through our prayers for success in ridding our communities of this great evil that destroys the quality of life in our neighborhoods and robs the dignity of the human person.

Drugs poison human society; they create a culture of death. The selling and using of illegal drugs is a direct attack on the dignity of human beings. Thus, an attack on the inviolability of the human person is an attack on God himself. Therefore, those who manufacture and distribute these drugs in a sense murder and enslave those who use them. And the users not only enslave themselves but also the innocent members of their communities who become the victims of drug-related crimes.

Saying "no" to drugs is a start but not the end to drug abuse. Simply to say "no" leaves one in a moral void that can only be filled, individually and as a society, by saying "yes".

"Yes" to the power of the Transcendent Being, God Our Father;

"Yes" to the affirmation of a drug-free and a spirit-filled life;

"Yes" to a society that combats the dealers preying on our weaknesses;

"Yes" to the education in values that gives meaning and purpose to our existence.

The tragedy of drug abuse is not simply the statistics of lost lives, increased crime and decreased productivity. The tragedy is the moral erosion of our society that has allowed an abuse of freedom and the enslavement of countless men, women and children in drug dependency.

The progress of a people depends upon their ideas of morality — the higher their standards of virtue, the higher their standards of civilization will be. The virtues may be natural or supernatural, but virtue must flourish to allow civilization to flourish. Civilization deteriorates when its roots are not planted in virtue. When virtue fails, civilization quickly begins to wither. Degradation and ruin are generated in the absence of virtue.

Just as drug abuse destroys the individual, it can destroy a society. Drug abuse is a disease that attacks the moral roots of our society leaving our moral integrity at risk. Drug abuse creates moral problems and immoral behavior, but it is a physical/psychological addiction and therefore treatment centers are very necessary. There is need for restoration not only by saying "no" to drugs but through family and community support, and especially through prayer.

Prayer permeates a person with new strength, special inspiration and proper motivation. Prayer is an enabler to renounce what is inhuman and to choose what is human. Prayer brings about a spirit of detachment from drugs. Prayer and reflection are of great assistance in allowing a person to get in touch with himself or herself and escape from drugs. A prayerful person can beat the habit.

Centuries ago, St. Augustine wrote: "Our hearts were made for Thee and they are restless until they rest in Thee." Today, many people wander in a moral vacuum and seek to fill their hunger for the Transcendent Being with transparent substitutes such as cocaine, PCP, heroin, crack and alcohol. As a society we need to say "no" to this false promise of happiness and its seductive charms. We also need to say "yes" to the true hope for all people of every age, Jesus as Lord and Saviour. While some may not acknowledge Jesus, all should be able to affirm the basic principles of the 12-step approach of AA (Alcoholics Anonymous): "I must admit that I am powerless before drugs and alcohol. I must believe that a power greater than myself can restore me to sanity."

Today we need to turn to prayer as well as policy formulation and police enforcement, and away from peer pressure. During this coming season of Advent we dedicate ourselves to drug awareness. Prayers of petition should be offered at the religious services in preparation for the joy of Christmas. Our prayer must include personal, family and societal dimensions, both as prayer of intercession and thanksgiving.

Personal Prayer: We must beseech the Lord to give our young people the courage to say "no" to drugs, to the peer pressures that promote drug dependency, and to the practice of narcissism. We must thank the Lord for those youthful role models who refuse to be a part of the drug scene.

Family Prayer: We must ask the Lord to strengthen those families afflicted by drug abuse, to safeguard families in areas of drug dealing and to heal families with members who are in various stages of recovery. We thank the Lord for those families who promote healthy family life and positive moral values in an effort to combat drug dependency.

Community Prayer: We must seek the Lord's assistance in promoting educational efforts and individual and family support programs, as well as community awareness to offer better understanding about the negative consequences of drug use and abuse.

We pray also for those responsible for the enforcement of the laws affecting the sale, possession and use of drugs. Theirs is the difficult and dangerous task of protecting and serving the public by preventing crime. In the war against drugs, the police are fighting on the front lines, bravely risking their lives each day to win the battle. We are most grateful for their actions which are so vital in our society's efforts to overcome this grave problem.

We thank the Lord for the increased sensitivity of our government and its willingness to address this major societal problem.

We thank the Lord for the gathering of the faith community to express our concern, affirm our support and challenge our local communities.



Photo by Paul Joswick

TOUCH-UP — Franciscan Brothers Rufino, left , and Gus, right, put the finishing touches on the 6-foot Advent wreath that will hang high above the altar at Old Mission San Luis Rey, near Oceanside.

Advent, a season of joyful waiting

Continued from page 1
revelation by praying and immersing ourselves in Scripture" readings which are always new when applied to different situations each day brings.

God is also revealed in the ever-changing scenes of nature she said. "The immensity and constancy of the ocean" with its high and low tides, as well as the changing hues of trees, "remind us of the paschal mystery of Jesus' dying and rising," Sister Nicgorski said.

She cautioned against allowing Christmas preparation to detract from the Advent spirit.

Gift-giving should not be considered an obligation but a symbol of "the gift of ourselves as Jesus was total self-giving," the director said. She suggested cutting back on material presents and instead giving one's time to family members and friends in deeds such as baby-sitting and running errands.

"Jesus comes again in us when we are Christ to others ...by giving whatever is asked of us without expecting anything in return," Sister Nicgorski continued.

Pre-Christmas socializing can help keep celebrators in the expectant Advent spirit if they are abstemious in eating and drinking and view these gatherings as a foretaste of Jesus' second coming when the faithful will be reunited with family and friends separated for a time by death, Sister Nicgorski said.

In a bulletin of the Center for Liturgy and Prayer, the director emphasized the importance of placing an Advent wreathe in homes where the symbol was used before it was introduced in the liturgy.

The wreathe should be made of real evergreens and located "where a reminder of the (Advent) season assaults the senses daily," Sister Nicgorski wrote.

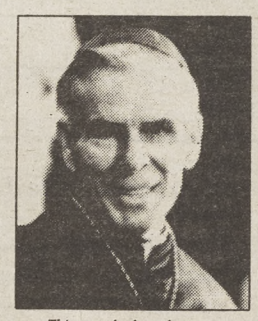
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